

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 12 and 13 stand objected to because of minor informalities.

Claims 1-6 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Parulski et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,040,068) in view of *Dalton et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,493,332).

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 12 and 13 contain allowable subject matter.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 6 without prejudice or disclaimer. Also, Applicant has amended claims 2-5, 8-11 so that claims 2-5 are dependent upon allowable claim 12 and claim 8-11 are dependent upon allowable claim 13. Moreover, Applicant has amended allowable claims 12 and 13 only to improve their form. Accordingly, claims 2-5 and 8-13 remain pending for further consideration.

Objection to Claims 12 and 13

Claims 12 and 13 stand objected to because of minor informalities. Applicant has amended claims 12 and 13 in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 12 and 13 be withdrawn.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-6 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Parulski et al.* in view of *Dalton et al.* Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection at least for the following reasons.

Since Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 6 without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1 and 6 has rendered moot. Further, Applicant has amended claims 2-5 to change their dependencies and improve their form so that claims 2-5 are now dependent upon independent claim 12, which has been indicated as including allowable subject matter. Similarly, Applicant has amended claims 8-11 to change their dependencies and improve their form so that claims 8-11 are now dependent upon independent claim 13, which has been also indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits claims 2-5, 8-11 and 12-13, as presently-amended, are in prima-facie condition for allowance, withdrawal of the rejection of dependents 2-5 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

With no other rejection pending, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-5 and 8-13 are in clear condition for allowance.

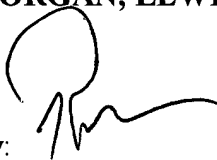
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

By: 

Robert J. Goodell
Reg. No. 41,040

Dated: April 14, 2005

CUSTOMER NO. 09629

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20004

Telephone: (202) 739-3000

Facsimile: (202) 739-3001